



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
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Inquiry:

- (1) Are Respiratory Therapists allowed to write orders for another profession (e.g., nursing) to follow in an acute care facility setting?
- (2) If so, what are the requirements / limitations?
- (3) Are RCP's allowed to write orders in any setting outside of the acute care facility?

Response: After reviewing the Business and Professions Code for Respiratory Care, I can find no reference or clarification for your question. The Practice Act only states that the performance of care requires a prescription of a physician. It provides no reference regarding the transcribing of orders.

The intent of the Practice Act does recognize the existence of overlapping functions between physicians and surgeons, registered nurses, physical therapists, respiratory care practitioners, and other licensed health care personnel to permit additional sharing of functions within organized health care systems (3701, Article 1, General Provisions). As such, the onus is on the organized health care system to determine and institute appropriate policies, practice guidelines, training and competencies that would provide clinical functions in a manner that would be safe when administered to the public.

Reference # 2003-C-6

This determination does not constitute a declaratory decision under the comprehensive provisions of Government Code sections 11465.10 - 11465.70.